IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (cancelled).

Claim 19 (previously presented): A batch comprising:

a) a refractory, Al_2O_3-containing metal oxide main component, the refractory metal oxide main component containing 40 to 60% by weight of Al_2O_3;

b) a phosphate bond, in particular, the phosphate bond being produced by a phosphoric acid or a monoaluminum phosphate; and

c) finely particulate SiC having a grain size of <0.2 mm, the batch containing 3 to 15% by weight of the finely particulate SiC; and

d) the grain size distribution of the SiC b ing selected so that more than 2.0% of the SiC, based on a total quantity of the batch, is <0.045 mm.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in claim 19, wherein the batch contains 80 to 97% by weight of the refractory metal oxide main component.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in claim 19, wherein the batch has a SiC content of between 3 and 8% by weight.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in claim 19, wher in the silicon carbid is a fused silicon carbid .

Claim 23 (previously pres nted): The batch as claimed in claim 19, wher in th silicon carbid is a regen rated silicon carbide product.

Claim 24 (cancelled).

Claim 25 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in claim 19, wherein the refractory metal oxide main component contains up to 15% of refractory clay.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A process for producing a batch, comprising:

a) mixing a refractory, Al_2O_3- containing metal oxide main component containing 40 to 60% by weight of Al_2O_3 with a finely particulat SiC having a grain size of <0.2 mm; and

b) adding a phosphoric acid or a monoaluminum phosphate as a binder component to form a mixture;

c) the SiC being added in a fineness and quantity so that more than 2.0% by mass, based on a total batch, of the SiC is <45 mm.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The process as claim d in claim 26, wherein 80 to 97% by weight of the refractory metal oxid main component is admix d.

Claim 28 (pr viously present d): Th process as claimed in claim 26, wher in betw en 3 and 8% by w ight f th SiC is admixed.

Claim 29 (previously pr s nted): The process as claimed in claim 26, wher in up to 15% of the r fractory metal oxide main component is replaced by refractory clay.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein a fused silicon carbide is used as the silicon carbide.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The prcoess as claimed in claim 26, wherein a regenerated silicon carbide product is used as the silicon carbide.

Claim 32 (cancelled).

Claim 33 (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein the refractory, Al_2O_3-containing metal oxide main component is used with a maximum grain size of 4 mm and a grain size distribution which corresponds to that of a typical Fuller curve.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein the batch is pressed into shaped bodies using a pressure of from 60 to 110 MPa.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 34, wherein the shaped bodies are dried at temperatures of ov r ~~100°C, at about 120°C~~ 100°C.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The process as claim d in claim 35, wher in th shap d bodi s, after drying, are fir d at a sintering temp ratur of approximat ly 1100 to 1400°C.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein a refractory shaped body is fabricated from the batch.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the refractory, Al_2O_3-containing metal oxide main component includes natural raw materials selected from a sillimanite group, a bauxite, a refractory clay and synthetic raw materials.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the refractory Al_2O_3-containing metal oxide main component includes natural raw materials selected from a sillimanite group.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the refractory, Al_2O_3-containing metal oxide main component includes natural raw materials selected from a bauxite.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the refractory, Al_2O_3-containing metal oxide main component includes natural raw materials selected from a refractory clay.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the refractory, Al_2O_3-containing metal oxide main component includes natural raw materials and/or synthetic raw materials.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The batch as claimed in Claim 42, wherein the synthetic raw materials include a sintered mullite, a calcined alumina, a sintered conrundum and/or a fused conrundum.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The process as claimed in Claim 26, wherein natural raw materials and/or synthetic raw materials are used as the refractory, Al_2O_3-containing metal oxide main component.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The process as claimed in Claim 44, wherein the natural raw materials include raw materials selected from a sillimanite group, a bauxite or a refractory clay.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The process as claimed in Claim 44, wherein the synthetic raw materials include a sintered mullite, a fused mullite, a calcined alumina, a sintered conrundum or a fused conrundum.